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about £1,600, were distributed among various competitors, almost exclusively of French nationality.

THE following table gives the number of students from the different medical schools who passed the licensing examinations now required in the State of New York for the year ending in 1896 :

Schools.	Number of Candidates.	Honor.	Per cent. accepted.
University of the State of New York.....	2	1	100
New York Medical College and hospital for women.....	7	0	100
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University....	142	11	92.9
Syracuse University .....	24	0	91.6
Bellevue Hospital Medical College	47	3	89.3
University of Buffalo.....	36	0	89.2
Long Island College Hospital....	64	0	87.5
Niagara University.....	15	0	86.6
Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary.....	7	2	85.7
Albany Medical College.....	47	0	85.1
Eclectic Medical College.....	20	3	85
New York Homeopathic Medical College.....	27	3	81.4
New York University.....	79	2	75.9

THE report of the special commission appointed by the Dutch government to discuss the scheme of draining the Zuyder Zee has been submitted. According to the *Railway Review* it states that such an undertaking is quite possible. The work would take 31 years for completion, and every year 10,000 hectares of land would be restored to cultivation. A dike 30 miles in length would have to be constructed, extending from the extreme end of South Holland to the eastern coast of Friesland. The building of this dike, 35 meters wide at the base and six meters high, will take nine years. The total cost of the work is estimated at £26,000,000, which includes the amount to be paid in indemnities to the fishermen of the Zuyder Zee. The total value of the land thus reclaimed from the ocean is estimated at £27,000,000, so that the Dutch treasury net a profit of £1,000,000, without reckoning the substantial gain to the

public wealth and a corresponding increase in the annual revenues from duties and taxes.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Rev. Thomas J. Conaty will be installed as Rector of the Catholic University, Washington, on January 19th. It is expected that Dr. Conaty and Cardinal Gibbons will make important speeches outlining the policy of the University.

EX-SENATOR SAWYER, of Wisconsin, has added \$5,000 to his recent gift of \$25,000 to the endowment fund of Lawrence University, in Appleton, Wis.

PROF. CHARLES F. CHANDLER has retired from the professorship of chemistry and medical jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, but retains the professorship of chemistry in Columbia University. Prof. Thomas Egleston has retired from the chair of mineralogy and metallurgy in Columbia University, and has been made professor emeritus.

DR. KLEBS, the German pathologist, has been made professor in the Rush Medical College, Chicago, and will also occupy a position in the post-graduate medical school of the University of Chicago.

A SCHOOL of science, with twenty-seven professorships, has been founded at Madrid.

THE following appointments are announced : Dr. G. H. Bryan to be professor of pure and applied mathematics in the University College of North Wales, Bangor ; Prof. E. Pringsheim to be professor of physics and Dr. Karl Friedheim to be professor of chemistry in Berlin University ; Prof. Paul Staeckel, of Königsberg, to be professor of mathematics in the University of Kiel ; Dr. Franz Nissl to be docent in anatomy in the University of Heidelberg.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### ON CERTAIN PROBLEMS OF VERTEBRATE EMBRYOLOGY.

I CRAVE your permission to rectify certain mistakes into which the reviewer of my recent work has fallen in his notice in *SCIENCE* of November 20th (p. 763). Your reviewer makes the following statements: